

Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI)
Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2007
United Way, Wethersfield, CT
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

In Attendance: Allison Case, DMHAS; Andrea Duarte, DMHAS; Dianne Harnad, DMHAS; Amy James, UCHC; Marianne McDougall, DMHAS intern; Scott Newgass, SDE; Aliza Porth, and Jessica Resnickoff, Enfield Youth Services; Barbara Sheldon, Parent; Judith Stonger, CT Clearinghouse; and Bill Turek, SDE

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Grantee Meeting

- Andrea, Amy and Allison attended SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services' GLS Grantee Meeting December 10-12 in Portland, OR. Andrea and Amy participated in a total of three panels – "Using evaluation data to improve program performance," "Challenges and opportunities when working with schools and school systems" and "Promoting sustainability through evaluation participation and stakeholder involvement." Connecticut received state and national level cross-site evaluation data at the meeting.
- Amy presented preliminary evaluation data on SOS program consent at the technical high schools and Counseling Center utilization at one University.
- Group discussion addressed program consent as an impediment to program delivery, the need for clarity with regard to what constitutes a suicide assessment and the possible use of depression questions within the Connecticut School Health Survey as a measure or proxy of program impact.
- Further discussion ensued around adding or influencing School Health Survey questions to assess suicide risk, attempts and/or GLBTQ status. Bonnie _ at SDE and Carol Meredith at DMHAS were identified as key contacts for this process.

Contracts

- Screening for Mental Health contract is with DMHAS' Fiscal Service Unit awaiting additional documents from SMH
- DCF MOA being developed to include support of 2009 AMSR Training of Trainers and Statewide Awareness Campaign (mini-grant program)
- Lesson Learned from Portland – DMHAS and contractor deferring IRB authority to UCHC extremely beneficial, saved a significant amount of time and effort

High School Component

- Cohort I SOS pre-tests completed; post-tests will be scheduled beginning in January.
- Consent process has varied from school to school with similarly variable degrees of success.
- Grant requires active program and evaluation consent. Group discussion addressed technical high schools including language on Acknowledgements/Agreements form that accompanies Student Handbook following grant to allow parents to opt out of SOS.
- Bill T. is retiring 12-31 but will continue to participate in meetings and provide advice as his schedule permits.

Saint Francis-Quirk Pilot

- Site staff meets with an Advisory Board monthly that includes Faith Vos Winkel from the Office of the Child Advocate and Margie Hudson from the Department of Public Health. Andrea and Amy attend quarterly.
- All well child visits now include mental health screenings.
- Parental consent for evaluation has been delayed but data can be captured retroactively to screening date following consent.
- Hartford Public High School is now using the Reynolds Adolescent Depression Scale as a result of Quirk using it for the grant.
- St. Francis is contributing funds to support project staff at both the hospital and middle school and has submitted a carryover request to fill a part-time position that will track middle school participants into high school.

College Component

- Connecticut State Universities are behind in data entry due to challenges with details of monthly data collection; process and requirements are being revisited.
- West Conn has experienced an on-going IRB issue
- Andrea meets with schools quarterly; next is February 8.

Training

- Andrea participated in a Training Utilization Penetration Survey call as a follow-up to AMSR training October 9. Stephanie, her interviewer from SPRC, reported she has had a positive response from workshop participants completing these calls.
- Judy reported the next AMSR training targeting cohort 1B technical high school counselors and EMPS providers will be held January 18. Bill has also encouraged other mental health professionals from SDE to attend and received positive feedback on the October session from staff at Platt. Enrollment for January is currently 18.
- Susan Moores delivered ASIST training to juvenile justice staff December 11 and 12 and reported to Andrea that it went very well. The next session targeting foster and adoptive parents is scheduled for January 15 and 16.
- February's ASIST training will focus on school nurses. Due to low enrollment, youth service bureaus and school personnel have also been invited to attend. March's training with target DCF staff.

Statewide Awareness Campaign

- Marianne is assisting Clearinghouse with administration of mini-grants.
- Letters of agreement and checks have been distributed to all seven Fall 2007 awardees
- Five of seven awardees attended an introductory meeting at Clearinghouse on December 7. In addition to networking, participants received an overview of CYSPI and took part in a facility tour. Judy, Marianne and Allison were impressed with the level of enthusiasm and scope of work displayed by awardees.
- Re-release of RFP in Spring 2008 was also discussed. Target set at March with the hope that programming can address National Suicide Prevention week in September (World Suicide Prevention Day is September 14, 2008). Fall 2007 RFP will be distributed to group prior to next meeting for review.

GLS Memorial Act Reauthorization

- Andrea discussed possibility of drafting a letter to Connecticut's congressional constituents to address active parental consent for services - state suicide prevention education mandate issue with group.

Other

- Bill is retiring 12-31 but will continue to participate in meetings and provide advice as his schedule permits.

2008 Meeting Dates

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

February 19; April 15; June 17; August 19; October 21; and December 16

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Handouts: October 16 Meeting Minutes; Select Evaluation data; Fall 2007 Mini-Grant Summary